



**HoGent**

Faculteit 'Bedrijf en Organisatie'

Bluetooth Low Energy wearables in een Internet of Things cloud-infrastructuur met behulp van een  
smartphone als gateway

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Scriptie voorgedragen tot het bekomen van de graad  
Bachelor in de toegepaste informatica

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Academiejaar: 2015-2016

Tweede examenperiode



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Thesis submitted in fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of  
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Academic year: 2015-2016

Second exam period

## **Abstract**

# Preface

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# Chapter 1

## Introduction

If you think that the internet has changed your life, think again. The IoT is about to change it all over again!

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Brendan O'Brien

The Internet of Things hasn't been around for a very long time, yet it's quickly becoming very popular and almost every tech company wants to be a part of it. It gained a lot of popularity around 2011 when IPV6 was released and it was around this time Gartner also took note of this technology and put it on their annual Hype Cycle for the first time. Around the same time of the growing popularity of the Internet of Things, the Bluetooth Special Interest Group also released a new Bluetooth specification that was built for the Internet of Things. Gartner suggests that by 2020, around 20 billion 'things' will be connected to the Internet of Things, a market that Bluetooth Low Energy aims to play a big role in. This thesis aims to provide an introduction to Bluetooth Low Energy and how one would go about implementing Bluetooth Low Energy in the Internet of Things. In this chapter, the problem that the thesis is trying to find an answer for is elaborated, as well as the actual questions that need answering. An introduction about 'AllThingsTalk' can also be found, a company that is trying to figure out how to include Bluetooth Low Energy wearables into their Internet of Things infrastructure.



## 1.1 Problem statement and research questions

In this section, the goal is to quickly familiarize you, the reader, with the subject this thesis is dealing about and which problems need to be solved in order to form a proper conclusion. First of all, the problem statement will be discussed where a quick sketch will be made as to why this thesis came to be. It will handle the problem AllThingsTalk is currently facing in the development of their company and why combining Bluetooth Low Energy with their Internet of Things infrastructure is the next logical step for their business. Next, we'll look at the main question AllThingsTalk wants an answer for together with some smaller questions that logically follow it.

### 1.1.1 Problem statement

At the time of writing, there are already a lot of Bluetooth enabled products on the technology market. With the new Bluetooth Low Energy specification, Bluetooth is reaching out even further to products like socks<sup>1</sup>, shoes<sup>2</sup>, fitness bands<sup>3</sup> and more are being added to the list every day. The problem with these products is that in a lot of cases, the products only synchronize with a smartphone. Some manufacturers extend this connectivity by occasionally synchronizing the data the smartphone captures to their own proprietary cloud, where the data can be analyzed by both the company and the consumer. Most of the time, this is where the data cycle stops and it can't be further accessed by other parties, this is known as a closed loop system. In some cases, developers can still access the data with an API that communicates with the cloud service of the manufacturer, but this doesn't give any access to the raw sensor values and doesn't allow real-time data transfer.

On top of this, a lot of the devices being manufactured don't use standard SIG adopted BLE services, which makes interoperability with existing applications hard, if not impossible if authentication and encryption are added into the mix.

### 1.1.2 Research questions

There are a couple of questions that can be asked when combining Bluetooth Low Energy and the Internet of Things, and some of those questions alone could have multiple papers dedicated. For example, the matter of security will be a never ending debate, and even more concerns arise when talking about security in the Internet of Things. These security concerns will be addressed further in section 9.2. Another concern is privacy, but since this is very much a gray area, it's hard to formulate a one-sided conclusion on this matter.

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.sensoriafitness.com/>

<sup>2</sup><https://secure-nikeplus.nike.com/plus/products/basketball>

<sup>3</sup><https://www.fitbit.com/>

The main goals this thesis tries to fulfill are in essence very simple, but of course there are always some other questions that arise when looking at the big picture. These questions can be categorized as following, the questions in bold being the main research questions and the ones in plain text being auxiliary questions:

- **Can Bluetooth Low Energy wearables be used in an Internet of Things cloud infrastructure?**
- **Is it possible to use a smartphone as gateway to communicate with the AllThingsTalk cloud in real-time?**
- What is Bluetooth Low Energy?
- What is the difference between Bluetooth Low Energy and Bluetooth Classic?
- What are the pros and cons of this technology?
- What types of devices exist in Bluetooth Low Energy and how do they expose their data?

## 1.2 AllThingsTalk

## **Chapter 2**

### **Methodology**

# **Chapter 3**

## **Bluetooth Low Energy**

### **3.1 What is Bluetooth Low Energy**

### **3.2 Key differences between classic Bluetooth**

#### **3.2.1 A new technology emerges**

#### **3.2.2 Limitations of Bluetooth Low Energy**

### **3.3 Bluetooth configurations**

### **3.4 How low energy is achieved**

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### **4.1 Controller**

#### **4.1.1 Physical Layer**

#### **4.1.2 Link Layer**

#### **4.1.3 Host Controller Interface**

### **4.2 Host**

#### **4.2.1 Host Controller Interface**

#### **4.2.2 Logical Link Control and Adaption Protocol**

#### **4.2.3 Attribute Protocol**

#### **4.2.4 Security Manager Protocol**

#### **4.2.5 Generic Access Profile**

#### **4.2.6 Generic Attribute Profile**

### **4.3 Application**

#### **4.3.1 Application**

## **Chapter 5**

### **Generic Access Profile**

# Chapter 6

## Generic Attribute Profile

You can have data without information, but you cannot have information without data.

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Daniel Keys Moran

At the core of Bluetooth Low Energy communication, the Generic Attribute Profile or GATT is something a client will use in every data request or data push once a dedicated connection has been set up. It defines the way data is transferred in Bluetooth Low Energy and it uses the Attribute protocol, which is the protocol that stores Services, Characteristics, Descriptors and their respective values. In this chapter the general Attribute Profile and Protocol will be discussed, as well as the different data structures that come in to play. An example of an Attribute server will also be given using a standard SIG-approved Profile, as well as why and how one would implement their own Profile, either because the SIG-approved profiles don't fit the use case or because the manufacturer wants to make the used technology more private.

## **6.1 Profiles**

## **6.2 Services**

## **6.3 Characteristics**

## **6.4 Descriptors**



## **Chapter 7**

# **Why Bluetooth Low Energy and Internet of Things**

## **Chapter 8**

### **Android programming**

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## **Discussion**

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